CLAIMS

- 1. A transaction processing system, comprising:
 - a component layer including at least one processing component configured to process data in a first format; and
 - a translation layer including a translation component configured to translate data from a second format into the first format.
- A transaction processing system according to claim 1, wherein the data includes a transaction having a transaction tag.
- 3. A transaction processing system according to claim 1, wherein the transaction processing system comprises a multi-node environment.
- 4. A transaction processing system according to claim 3, further comprising a transaction manager, wherein the transaction manager is configured to refer the translated data from a first node to a second node.
- 5. A transaction processing system according to claim 1, wherein the second format is human readable.
- 6. A transaction processing system according to claim 1, wherein the component layer includes multiple processing components, and wherein the multiple processing components operate in conjunction with different languages.

- 7. A transaction processing system according to claim 1, further comprising a transaction manager configured to detect a failure of the processing component and restart the processing component after detecting the failure.
- 8. A transaction processing system according to claim 1, further comprising a transaction manager configured to:

monitor processing requirements for the processing component; and at least one of automatically starting and retracting an additional processing component according to the processing requirements.

- 9. A transaction processing system according to claim 1, wherein the transaction processing system comprises multiple nodes, and the translating component and the processing component are on different nodes.
- 10. A transaction processing system, comprising:
 - a translating component configured to receive a transaction in a first format and translate the transaction into a second format;
 - a processing component configured to process the transaction in the second format; and
 - a transaction manager configured to transfer the translated transaction to the processing unit.

- 11. A transaction processing system according to claim 10, wherein the transaction is stateless.
- 12. A transaction processing system according to claim 10, wherein the transaction includes a transaction tag.
- 13. A transaction processing system according to claim 10, wherein the transaction processing system comprises a multi-node environment.
- 14. A transaction processing system according to claim 13, wherein the transaction manager is configured to refer the transaction from a first node to a second node.
- 15. A transaction processing system according to claim 13, wherein at least two of the translating component, the processing component, and the transaction manager are on different nodes.
- 16. A transaction processing system according to claim 10, wherein the second format is human readable.
- 17. A transaction processing system according to claim 10, further comprising multiple processing components, and wherein the multiple processing components operate in conjunction with different languages.

- 18. A transaction processing system according to claim 10, wherein the transaction manager is configured to detect a failure of the processing component and restart the processing component after detecting the failure.
- 19. A transaction processing system according to claim 10, wherein the transaction manager is configured to:

monitor processing requirements for the processing component; and at least one of automatically start and retract an additional processing component according to the processing requirements.

20. A data communications system, comprising:

an external unit configured to communicate data in a first format; and a transaction processing system configured to communicate with the external unit, including:

a translation component configured to translate the data between the first format and a second format;

a processing component configured to generate and receive data in the second format; and

a transaction manager configured to transfer the data between the translation component and the processing component.

21. A data communications system according to claim 20, wherein the data comprises a stateless transaction.

- 22. A data communications system according to claim 20, wherein the data includes a transaction tag.
- 23. A data communications system according to claim 20, wherein the transaction processing system comprises a multi-node environment.
- 24. A data communications system according to claim 23, wherein the transaction manager is configured to refer the transaction from a first node to a second node.
- 25. A data communications system according to claim 23, wherein at least two of the translation component, the processing component, and the transaction manager are on different nodes.
- 26. A data communications system according to claim 20, wherein the second format is human readable.
- 27. A data communications system according to claim 20, further comprising multiple processing components, and wherein the multiple processing components operate in conjunction with different languages.

- 28. A data communications system according to claim 20, wherein the transaction manager is configured to detect a failure of the processing component and restart the processing component after detecting the failure.
- 29. A data communications system according to claim 20, wherein the transaction manager is configured to:

monitor processing requirements for the processing component; and at least one of automatically start and retract an additional processing component according to the processing requirements.

30. A method of processing data, comprising:

transmitting a request from an external client to a transaction processing system in a first format;

translating the request from the first format to a second format;

transferring the request to a processing component; and

translating a return from the processing component from the second
format to the first format.

- 31. A method of processing data according to claim 30, wherein the request and the return comprise transactions having a transaction tag and data.
- 32. A method of processing data according to claim 30, wherein the transaction processing system comprises a multi-node environment.

- 33. A method of processing data according to claim 32, further including referring the request from a first node to a second node.
- 34. A method of processing data according to claim 30, wherein the second format is human readable.
- 35. A method of processing data according to claim 30, wherein the request and the return are stateless.
- 36. A method of processing data according to claim 30, wherein the processing component is one of multiple processing components, and wherein the multiple processing components operate in conjunction with different languages.
- 37. A method of processing data according to claim 30, further including:

 detecting a failure of a process; and

 restarting the process after detecting the failure.
- 38. A method of processing data according to claim 37, wherein the process comprises at least one of a data receiving process, a data sending process, and a processing component.

- 39. A method of processing data according to claim 30, further including:

 monitoring processing requirements for the processing component; and
 at least one of automatically starting and retracting an additional
 processing component according to the processing requirements.
- 40. A method of processing data according to claim 30, wherein at least one of translating the request, transferring the request, and translating the return, is performed on a different node than at least one of another of translating the request, transferring the request, and translating the return.